



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch  
Housing Committee Public Hearing  
March 1, 2022**

**S.B. 168, An Act Establishing a Right to Housing**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding **S.B. 168, *An Act Establishing a Right to Housing***.

Section 1 of the bill establishes a “right to housing” and applies to each “state agency” as defined in C.G.S. section 1-79, which includes the Judicial Branch. We respectfully request that the definition of “state agency” reference section 4-40b of the Connecticut General Statutes, which does not include the Judicial Branch.

This bill requires all state agencies to develop programmatic policies and procedures consistent with this goal. The language in the bill is in direct conflict with the constitutional role of the Judicial Branch. It is fundamental to the Judicial Branch’s mission that the judiciary remain fair and impartial in all proceedings before the courts, including summary process actions. The courts cannot take an affirmative position or advocate for one side over the other in adjudicating these cases.

However, it is important to emphasize that the work of judicial housing mediators, housing clerks and Court Service Centers support the Judicial Branch’s commitment to eviction prevention and support services, including our collaboration with, and referral to, eviction prevention programs such as UniteCT and Right to Counsel in eviction proceedings.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.